

Jasper Courier

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DISTANCE OF THE STARS.

How Astronomers Set About the Task of Measuring It.

With the exception of a hundred stars at most, we know nothing of the distances of the individual stars. What is the cause of this state of things? It is owing to the fact that we have two eyes that we are enabled not only to perceive the distance in which external objects are situated, but to get an idea of their distance, to localize them in space. But this power is rather limited. For distances exceeding some hundreds of yards it utterly fails. The reason is that the distance between the eyes as compared with the distance to be evaluated becomes too small. Instruments have been devised by which the distance between the eyes is, as it were, artificially increased. With a good instrument of this sort distances of several miles may be evaluated. For still greater distances we may imagine each eye replaced by a photographic plate. Even this would be quite sufficient for one of the heavenly bodies—viz, for the moon.

At one and the same moment let a photograph of the moon and the surrounding stars be taken both at the Cape observatory and at the Royal observatory at Greenwich. Placing the two photographs side by side in the stereoscope, we shall clearly see the moon "hanging in space" and may evaluate its distance.

But for the sun and the nearest planets, our next neighbors in the universe after the moon, the difficulty recommences.

The reason is that any available distance on the earth, taken as eye distance, is rather small for the purpose. However, owing to incredible perseverance and skill of several observers and by substituting the most refined measurement for stereoscopic examination, astronomers have succeeded in overcoming the difficulty for the sun. I think we may say that at present we know its distance to within a thousandth part of its amount. Knowing the sun's distance, we get that of all the planets by a well known relation existing between the planetary distances.

But now for the fixed stars, which must be hundreds of thousands of times farther removed than the sun. There evidently can be no question of any sufficient eye distance on our earth. Meanwhile our success with the sun has provided us with a new one distance, 24,000 times greater than any possible eye distance on the earth, for now that we know the distance at which the earth travels in its orbit around the sun we can take the diameter of its orbit as our eye distance. Photographs taken at periods six months apart will represent the stellar world as seen from points the distance between which is already best expressed in the time it would take light to traverse it. The time would be about sixteen minutes.

However, even this distance, immense as it is, is, on the whole, inadequate for obtaining a stereoscopic view of the stars. It is only in quite exceptional cases that photographs on a large scale—that is, obtained by the aid of big telescopes—show any stereoscopic effect for fixed stars. By accurate measurement of the photos we may perhaps get somewhat beyond what we can attain by simple stereoscopic inspection; but, as we said a moment ago, astronomers have not succeeded in this way in determining the distance of more than a hundred stars in all.—Scientific American.

Lazy Birds.

The "mound fowls" of Australia and New Guinea construct mounds of decayed leaves for their nests. In these the eggs are laid and covered over with the same material. The warmth engendered by the decomposition of the leaves causes the eggs to hatch, and the young in due time burrow their way out to life and the open air. These birds are regarded as the laziest of all the feathered kingdom. Next to them come the common blackbirds of America for laziness. These blackbirds never build nests of their own, but lay their eggs in the nests of other birds and leave them to be hatched by foster mothers. This is an unfortunate imposition on the smaller birds, as the blackbird's young is so large when first hatched that he soon crowds the smaller birds out of the nest and has it all

How He Acquired Trouble.
"Education," said the man who had been sued for breach of promise, "is the root of all evil."
"How so?" asked the man who had not been sued and consequently could not reason from the same premises.
"If I hadn't been able to write," answered the defendant, "what evidence do you suppose they would have against me?" Still, he conceded after some argument that the man who can write and won't has some advantages over the man who doesn't write because he can't.—Chicago Post.

Real Need For Hurry.



The Gentleman with the Bonnet Box—Don't stop me, old chap! Don't stop me! I've got a new hat for my wife in here, and if I'm not quick I'll be out of fashion before she's worn it!—Drawn by H. M. Bateman in Sketch.

Grubworm Races.

An odd form of animal contest used to be practiced by office clerks in London some years ago. It was known as grub racing, and nearly every younger clerk had his stable of racers. These worms were bred in nuts or apples and carefully stabilized between two walnut shells. They were selected by placing them in the center of a piece of paper, and the one that proved most adept in making a speedy bee line to the edge of the paper was matched against the pick of a rival stable. Some of the fastest could not be induced to travel in a straight line. In racing parlance, they bolted and were bad betting propositions. But when two came together that showed a disposition to run straight and true the betting on the result was lively enough to stir up the anti-gambling enthusiasts.—New York Tribune.

Nursery Rhyme.



Barkety, bark! Old dog Tray Took to his paws and ran away Over the hills and fresh and green, And since then he's not been seen. Barkety, bark! Old dog Tray, Please come back to your home some day.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Nailed to a Goose's Egg.

A Hungarian blacksmith recently sent as a present to the emperor of Austria a horseshoe, a pair of pinchers, a file and a knife, all ingeniously nailed to a goose's egg without the egg being broken. The emperor sent in return his photograph, a gold medal and 30 ducats.

Baked Shad.

Clean a shad and stuff with mashed potatoes to which is added a teaspoon of finely minced parsley. Lay the fish on a baking dish on several slices of salt pork. Bake and baste often with the fat from the pork.

The Care of Carpets.

Sponge carpets occasionally with hot water in which either common salt or powdered alum has been dissolved. This not only brightens the carpets but prevents moths.

Miss Contrariwise

BY MARGARET ERSKINE

HAVE you ever met the Lady, Who is called, "Contrariwise"? Nothing you can do or say, Is just right within her eyes.

If you say: "It's lovely weather, And the sun is nice and hot," She will say: "It's disagreeable." And she's cold, as like as not.

If you say: "The flowers are lovely, And the birds, they sing so well," She will say: "They're very noisy; Flowers have a horrid smell."

If you tell her that "in sewing Thread should go to the needle thro'," She will say: "To put the needle Thro' the thread's the thing to do."

So it is with this and that thing, Nothing's quite as it should be. If you try to see as she sees, 'T other way 't would be, she'd see

So she makes us all unhappy, Be she grown up, be she small. But, I think, the most unhappy, Is Miss Contrariwise of all

NEXT ATTRACTION

The Big Event of the Season.
The Barnum of Them All.

Opera House Sat., Oct. 30.

The newest of all theatrical treats will entertain the people at the Opera House Sat. Oct. 30th. A program decidedly out of the ordinary. Two solid hours without a wait. This year's film subjects representing nearly every nation of the inhabited globe, visiting the places of interest and shopping at each long enough to witness some noted events. See the kind of Vaudeville you like Miss Grace Glazin the great song and dance artist, Porter and Kersands in songs, dances and Monologues.

If you like sweet music, both vocal and instrumental, "be there." If you want to spend a thoroughly pleasant evening and be entertained by a company that knows how to entertain and does it, get your seats reserved that you may enjoy it to the fullest extent.

EXTRA. Special home feature too home scenes from Jasper Ind. and vicinity. Paul & Smith Co., is the only company known carrying a special advance photographer, who has photographed everything of interest in Jasper and vicinity and prepared them for the mechanism, all of which will be shown during the program Sat. Oct. 30th.

These home scenes when shown in this year's great inventions are full life sized and absolutely like life. Every place photographed will be exhibited and every place visited by the advance artists is cordially invited to furnish a subject. They are made, prepared and exhibited at the companies expense.

No crowds too large No family to poor. No place too fine to be visited and photographed. Prices to the show, 15, 25 and 35 cents. Reserved seats on sale at usual place. Read the locals.

Those Interested Had Better Get Next.

It is apparent that the grocery trade is being led to believe that the section of the Pure Food Law regulating the use of preservatives and antiseptics have been repealed or is no longer in force. In order to correct this impression, it seems advisable to issue the following statement:

The Pure Food Law which went into effect March 4, 1907, contains this paragraph:

Sec. 2. That for the purpose of this act an article shall be deemed as adulterated: In case of food:

Seventh. If it contains any added antiseptic or preservative substance except common table salt, saltpeter, sugar, vinegar, spices, or in smoked food, the natural products of the smoking process, or other harmless preservative whose use is authorized by the State Board of Health.

In the absence of any rule of

LESS THAN 40 PER CENT.

OF PEOPLE OF UNITED STATES BELONG TO CHURCHES—ONLY 34 PER CENT IN INDIANA

CHURCHES OWN VALUABLE PROPERTY

A special census of the churches of this country was taken in 1906 and has just been made public. This census shows some very interesting features of church membership in the various states of the United States.

Thirty four and six tenths per cent. of the inhabitants of Indiana are church members, or were in 1906, when the special census of the churches of the country, was taken. For the entire country, the percentage of church membership to population is 39.1. Nine hundred and thirty-eight thousand four hundred and five church members were found in Indiana out of an estimated population of 1,719,898.

The number of organizations reporting was 6,829. The women outnumber the men in the churches in the state by 145,422, the total of female communicants being 514,538, as against 369,516 males. That there is no lack of church facilities in the state is shown by the fact that the 6,829 churches report a seating capacity of 2,123,181, or more than two seats for each member. A total value of \$31,081,500 is placed on the church property. Nine hundred and sixty one organizations reported a total indebtedness of \$1,723,109. The total value of church parsonages is given as \$3,623,538. Reports were received by census bureau from 5,879 Sunday schools in the state, with 63,042 teachers, and 516,809 scholars.

In the state of Indiana the methodists lead in membership having 210,593, the Catholics rank second with 173,849, the Disciples of Christ come third with 163,188; the Baptists are fourth with 60,203; Lutherans fifth with 52,768. The United Brethren 48,059.

In Indiana, which ranked eighth in population, was eleventh in respect to the church membership. Similarly, in a grouping based on value of property, New Jersey, which reported the church property valued at \$50,907,023, would rank sixth; Indiana with property valued at \$31,081,500, eight; Iowa, with property valued at \$30,564,860, ninth; Connecticut, with property valued at \$29,196,128, tenth.

An Old Debt Settled.

Settlement has been made with Prof. D. M. Hammond, formerly of this city, who for several years has been living in Denver, for a claim against the government and the Denver Post, along with a picture of Prof. Hammond prints the following comment on the matter:

After forty-seven years the government has finished the unwinding of red tape and has forwarded to D. M. Hammond of 609 Twenty-fourth street a check for 99 cents as payment in full for services rendered during the Civil war.

Hammond served with the Twenty-fourth Indiana volunteers and was in the battle of Shiloh. The government has owed him 87 cents for arrears in salary since his discharge in April, 1862, and 12 cents clothing allowance.

It was in last July that Hammond received word that the government had decided at last to send him a check. He has had the check framed as a warning to all not to let United States owe them any money.—New Albany Ledger.

FOR SALE.

Story-and-half seven room house. Good lot, 50x100 ft., alley in rear; graded street, good pavements, good well and cellar. Must be sold at once. No reasonable offer refused. Apply Courier office.

MRS. BARBARA SENG.

GOLDEN NEEDLES.

They Were Used When Gallants In France Did Fancy Work.

During the old regime in France, about which so much glamour remains to us, the very men who were living and making the history of the empire of Louis passed their leisure time in a way that seems to us of today utterly ridiculous. In all the fancy work on which ladies employed themselves the men seem to have taken part.

Poinsett in one of his comedies represents a young marquis entering a room where two fair damsels are embroidering. One is working a piece of dress trimming, the other a Marly lounce. The beau examines the embroidery with the eye of a connoisseur, points out here and there the specially good touches and is too polite to notice any defects. He takes a little gold tube out of the pocket of his richly decorated waistcoat and selects a dainty gold needle. He goes to the frame at which Odalisse is working and finishes the flower which she had begun. From her he moves to the sofa and, seizing one end of the lounce, assists Ismene, to whom he pays special attention, to complete her task.

At this time it was the custom of the ladies invariably to carry their workbags with them to the evening receptions, in which they had not only their embroidery materials, but the last novel, the popular songs, their patch boxes and rouge pots. Gentlemen also carried deftly embroidered little bags into company, which held "a whole arsenal of cutlery and fancy articles, such boxes of different shapes filled with lozenges, bonbons, snuff and scents."

At another period the fashion of the day was to cut out drawings from books and pamphlets and to paste them on screens, lamp shades, boxes and vases. The skill in this was to so arrange the drawings or parts of different drawings as to produce a curious or amusing effect. Then there came a season when all the rage was for charades and riddles, which gave a peculiarly good opportunity to exercise the light and rapid wit so conspicuous in the French. Every evening the drawing rooms were converted into impromptu charades. Some lady would suggest a word or phrase, and forthwith it would be converted into the subject of a sprightly little play. Many of the word games now current with us in America had their origin in the necessity the French salons were under in the last century to divert themselves. In some of the salons the fashion of keeping a daily chronicle of news, which was too often a mere chronicle of scandal, was adopted. Mme. Doublet de Persan issued bulletins which she called "nouvelles a la main." In her apartments two registers were kept, one of the authentic news received here and there by her guests, the other of floating rumors and on dits, and from these the budget of her chronicle was made up and circulated throughout France.—Appleton's Magazine.



Cholly—What do you think of the engagement ring I gave your sister? Willie—Gee, it's great! She lets me wear it when her other fellows is callin'.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Just Some Badinage.

Mr. Jigley—The other day I saw quite an interesting educated pig—Miss Pert—Oh, of course! I suppose—Mr. Jigley—Don't say it! You were going to say you suppose I looked in the glass, weren't you? Miss Pert—Not at all. I don't consider you interesting or educated.—Catholic Standard and Times.